TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SECOND COUNCIL.

SECOND SESSION, 1102.

(OFFICIAL REPORT.)

Friday, the 13th Karkatakam 1102/29th July, 1927.

The Council met in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall, at eleven-thirty of the Clock, M. E. Watts, Esquire, B.A., Barrister-at-Law, Dewan, presiding. All except the following members were present:—Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai, Mr. P. Habeeb Mahomed, Mr. N. V. Joseph, Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman, Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai, Mr. T. J. Matthew and Mr. G. Raman Menon.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members were sworn in :—

1. Mr. P. N. Krishna Pillai (*Secretary to Government*).
2. ,, Kurandipallil R. Raman Pillai (*Quilon*).
3. ,, A. Vipan (*Chief Engineer*).
4. ,, T. P. Ramasubba Aiyar (*Secretary to Government*).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Achamma, Nurse, Kayankulam Hospital.

1. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is at present a married nurse, by name Achamma, in the District Hospital, Kayankulam ;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the dates of her entertainment in the service and marriage ; and

(*c*) whether a covenant against marriage was taken from her as required by the rules published in the *Government Gazette*, dated the 13th July, 1920?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) There is at present a married nurse by name Achamma, but she is attached to the District Hospital, Tiruvalla.

(*b*) Entertained on the 28th Edavam 1098. Marriage took place subsequent to that date.

(*c*) No. The provisions of the rules were not applicable to non-stipendiary students according to the first notification and Achamma was a non-stipendiary student.

G. P. T. 2093. 66. 16-12-1102.

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether it was before the 28th Edavam 1098 that the marriage of nurses was banned or whether the ban against the marriage of nurses was enforced by the Officer in charge of the Darbar Physician's duties?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I do not understand the question.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether it was before the 28th Edavam that the marriage of nurses was banned or whether the ban was enforced by the Officer in charge of the Darbar Physician's duties?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): That is so far as one class of nurses are concerned.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether it was before that that the order was enforced?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): On a previous occasion, it was stated in an answer to a question that the work of nurses would be prejudicially affected if they are allowed to marry. May I know whether it is the marriage that prejudicially affects their work or their stipendiary or non-stipendiary nature?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): There were two notifications on the matter. According to the first notification, it was only the stipendiary nurses that were prohibited from marrying.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): My question is whether it is the marriage that makes the work suffer or the stipendiary or the non-stipendiary nature of the nurses.

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): That depends upon the opinion of Medical Officers. In regard to particular nurses, it depends on the terms under which they were entertained. In the case in question, the nurse was found to be quite competent for her work in spite of her marriage.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): As matters stand at present, may I know whether, irrespective of the question of the stipendiary or non-stipendiary nature of the nurses, marriage is allowable?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): As I have stated already, there are two notifications on the matter. According to the first notification, only stipendiary students were prohibited from marrying. But according to the second, probably on account of more careful consideration of the question, it was thought advisable to prohibit the marriage of both the classes of nurses. The member now wants to know whether marriage by itself is a disqualification or whether it is their stipendiary nature that is the disqualification. That question was not enquired into. Information was not called for in regard to that point.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I want an answer for one question, namely, whether marriage, if it is a disqualification, will not affect both classes of nurses, stipendiary as well as nonstipendiary.

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MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : At present, in the light of the second notification on the matter, marriage is a disqualification for both the classes of nurses.

Action against the Malabar Advocate.

2. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*) : With reference to my question No. 60, asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 24th November, 1926, will the Government be pleased to state whether they have considered the question of taking action against the *Malabar Advocate* for publishing the following passage : - " It is a notorious fact that in the last reign there was a Palace favourite who used to sell appointments and other forms of similar patronages to the highest bidder. Anybody, no matter whether well-qualified or ill-qualified, could get a job provided he was ready to pay for it "?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The Government did consider the question, and upon the advice of their Law Officers, the matter was dropped.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know who was the officer concerned at the time this opinion was ascertained from the legal department of the Government ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Mr. V. S. Subrahmanya Aiyar.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Was it his opinion that an action will not lie on the passage quoted above ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Action under what Regulation ?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Under the Newspapers Regulation ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Yes, that was his opinion.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know whether, if the same passage had been published about the present administration, an action would lie ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : That is not for me to answer. The member may take legal advice on the matter, if he wants.

The Kannan Devan Hills Concession.

3. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*) : With reference to the concession to the Kannan Devan Hills Produce Company, Limited, will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the total area assigned to the Kannan Devan Hills Produce Company ;

(*b*) the total area planted with tea or rubber or otherwise cultivated ; and

(*c*) the total area left as forests or unplanted ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) :

(*a*) 1,37,431·89 acres.

(*b*) 38,113·32 acres.

(*c*) 99,318·57 acres.

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